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HASKIN & SELLS, OF NEW YORK, IN CHARGE, NOT PEOPLE OF FLORIDA

One of the most astounding reports ever written in this State on a Legislative subject is that made to the House of Representatives by the committee appointed to investigate the committee appointed to investigate the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund.

Remarkable is this report, because it shows that the representatives of the people can learn nothing of the business of the people, and that the whole matter is tied up by a firm of New York accountants.

Under such condition the people are denied all knowledge of what is being done, so effectually has Chairman Buckman sealed the fount of information, yet the people have to pay the bills.

Following is the report in full:

Tallahassee, Fla., May 20, 1907.

To the Honorable E. S. Matthews,
Speaker of House of Representatives,
Tallahassee, Fla.

Sir:

Your Committee appointed under the provisions of House Resolution No. 86, beg leave to report as follows:

This Committee convened as soon as practicable after their appointment, proceeded to an organization by electing C. S. Wilson, Chairman; M. S. Knight, Secretary. The Joint Committee to investigate the Internal Improvement Fund were requested to meet with us, which they did on the 17th day of May.

The Chairman of the Committee reported that the investigation had been conducted so as to cover the period from the 22nd of April back to 1901. At present the data has not been compiled, and had not been examined, but it was the intention of the committee to report the findings in relation to this period of time to the Legislature before its adjournment. The committee determined its own mode of investigation and had not the advice or counsel of any attorney outside of its own membership. The expense incurred by the Joint Committee has been approximately \$1,200. They are under an expense at present of about \$55.00 per day, exclusive of stenographer and witnesses. The committee employed three expert accountants who were of the firm of Haskin & Sells, certified accountants of New York City. We are advised by the Chairman of the Committee that it will require three months' time in order to complete the investigation from the inception of the fund.

We requested the accountants to appear before us, and Mr. C. D. Martin stated that he was in charge of them, and made the following statements:

DIRECT EXAMINATION OF MR. C. D. MARTIN.

Q.—Are you employed by the Investigating Committee?

A.—No, sir.

Q.—Whom are you employed by?

A.—I am employed by Haskin & Sells of New York City.

Q.—You get your instructions from the house by whom you are employed?

A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Your instructions are to examine certain accounts?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Do your instructions include all accounts and papers in the Internal Improvement Fund?

A.—I understand they do.

Q.—What are your instructions as to the examination of these accounts. Are you instructed to classify?

A.—I do not feel that I can give you any information about this work, because we are employed by the firm of Haskin & Sells. I do not know the State of Florida, nor the Legislature, or any committee whatever; I am stating this with all due respect to your Committee; I cannot give you information without exposing the private business of my firm; I am sent here to examine certain accounts, by the firm of Haskin & Sells, and to report to my firm my findings; therefore, any information as to the result of my findings will have to come from Haskin & Sells. I understand that I am before this Committee as an individual, and you cannot summons me except as an individual; therefore, I have no information of the examination of the accounts as an individual.

Q.—You make your report to Haskin & Sells?

A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Not to the Investigating Committee?

A.—No, sir.

Q.—Then, you are not at liberty to give us the details of this work?

A.—No, sir, just for that reason only; I would be severely criticised if I divulged anything without the approval of my firm.

Q.—Then, you are not under the control of the Investigating Committee?

A.—No.

Q.—Under whose authority, then, did you obtain access to the records?

A.—I was introduced to several members of the Trustees by Mr. Buckman, as the representative of Haskin & Sells, which firm I had been employed by to make an examination and audit of the account.

Q.—Do you make more than one copy?

A.—I do not make any copies except my working papers; those reports are prepared in New York.

Q.—You forward a copy of your work to New York?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Then Haskin & Sells of New York are conducting the examination?

A.—Yes.

Q.—You will continue this examination as long as the firm of Haskin & Sells instruct you?

A.—Yes.

Q.—And cover only such periods that they might direct?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Are you putting in your account of expense items under the heads of "Lawful and Unlawful?"

A.—No.

Q.—You are in no way passing on the laws?

A.—No, sir.

Q.—From what you have already accomplished, how long do you think it would take to go through the remainder?

A.—I cannot reply to that; I have no idea. We never undertake to give, or, at least, very seldom, an estimate as to time.

Q.—What period of time has your examination covered up to now?

A.—You are asking a question now that should be answered by my firm.

Q.—We can not reach your firm.

A.—I cannot reply to you.

Q.—Can you state at what period in the history of the Board the examination began?

A.—No, sir, I cannot. That has been forwarded to my firm, and the firm will report that to the committee, or by whom it was employed.

We, therefore, recommend that, in justice to all parties concerned, and to the best interest of the State, that this investigation be completed, and a full report made to the Legislature; that the investigation begin from 1855 to the present date; that a committee or commission be appointed by this Legislature, created by an act of the Legislature, to carry on this investigation.

We are advised that the cost of the investigation will be approximately \$5,000.00, exclusive of the compensations of the commission; we, therefore, recommend that this amount be appropriated for that purpose.

We would further recommend that at all sessions of the commission, where witnesses are examined, such sessions shall be open to the public.

We would further recommend that the present committee of the Senate and House, with one additional member from the House, be selected as the commission to make and complete the investigation, and that all papers and data in the hands of the present committee be turned over to the commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest: M. S. KNIGHT, O. S. WILSON,
Secretary. Chairman.
J. H. HARVELL,
WM. H. MALONE, Jr.
A. MAX WILSON.

COULD NOT KILL THE SALARY BILL

SENATOR BEARD AND BROOME FIGHT FOR "ECONOMY," BUT FAIL TO WIN—ABLE SPEECH OF SENATOR ADAMS, AND SENATORS MASSEY, CONE AND CRANE HAVE SOMETHING GOOD TO SAY FOR THE BILL.

Those well-known economists, Senators Beard and Broome, in their great sketch of "How to Keep Down the Salaries," played yesterday afternoon in the Senate to a crowded house.

There were other players, but none had the dash and go of these skilled artists, who were letter-perfect in their lines, faultless in conception of the character demanded by the situation, and skilled in the lightness of the temperament that reached out into the galleries.

So wrought up did Senator Broome become that he did address the galleries, and was mildly reproved by the President for his indiscretion.

During this continuous performance, under its real title of "A bill to be entitled an act to fix the salaries of certain State officials," a fine presentation of a heavy lead was given by Senator Adams, in which the need and justice of such increase was set forth with vigor and convincing earnestness.

"I move indefinite postponement," cried Senator Broome, when the bill was taken up.

"This bill is championed by the Governor, and I am here to speak for the people."

"The Adjutant General told me at the boarding house that he had been in conference with the Governor concerning an increase of salary and the Governor told him to put it in this omnibus bill."

"It is a case of I'll tickle you and you'll tickle me."

"If a bill was passed to reduce the salaries of these Cabinet officers to \$1,800, not one of them would resign." Much more did Senator Broome say in opposition to the

BULK BILL PASSES THE SENATE.

Denouncing it as the product of a trust, Senator Cone attacked the House bill of Mr. Reese, providing that a retail merchant cannot sell goods in bulk or close out stock without notification to creditors.

The bill was passed, however, Senator Girardeau voting for it, because the merchants of his town requested him to, although he did not think it a good bill.

Senator Massey voted no, saying that, in his opinion, the bill restricted the rights of a citizen.

SENATOR CREWS WON EASILY.

Senator Crews made a strong appeal against the passage of a bill by Senator Clarke and supported by Senator Willis and won handsily.

The purpose of the bill was to change the present law in regard to claims against railways for the killing of stock, and the argumentative powers of Mr. Crews defeated the bill.

SENATE PASSED COLLEGE BILL.

The House bill, appropriating \$570,000 for the four State educational institutions, passed the Senate yesterday, with one dissenting vote, that of Senator Cone.

The only contest was over an amendment by Senator Trammell, reducing the appropriation \$100,000. This was fought by Senator Buckman, and was defeated.

SCHEDULE OF SENATE SESSIONS.

Senator Adams offered a resolution yesterday, which was adopted, that the Senate hold sessions from 9 a. m. to 1 p. m., and 3:30 p. m. until 6:45 p. m., and at night from 8 until 10 o'clock, the resolution becoming effective to-day.

The Senate, however, yesterday afternoon adjourned until 9:30 this morning.

ANTI-REBATE BILL PASSED BY SENATE.

Senator Harris moved to indefinitely postpone the House bill, prohibiting the giving of rebates by common carriers or the receiving of same, but his motion lacked support and was lost.

He then tried to get the bill continued to another day, but the bill was passed, only three voting against it. These were Senators Harris, Buckman and Sams.

DIVISIONISTS LOSE ATLANTIC COUNTY

HOUSE ADMINISTERED KNOCKOUT BLOW TO PLANS FOR THE DISMEMBERMENT OF VOLUSIA COUNTY—VOTE TO POSTPONE DEVELOPED LACK OF ORGANIZATION.

One of the surprises of the session was enacted yesterday when the House voted to indefinitely postpone the bill to create the new county of Atlantic, the vote being 45 to 13.

The divisionists felt very certain of the House, and with Representative Parkinson to lead the forces there was a feeling of security. Parkinson did much on the floor to get the Pinellas bill through the House. Parkinson has a peculiar persuasiveness (which is good because it's alliterative), and he had a good cause. Parkinson is also resourceful. In arguing the Pinellas case he used the rebel yell as a lever, and all the rebels fell in behind. In his own cause he used the Declaration of Independence, but the eccentric slipped, and the motion to indefinitely postpone went through. In summing up the cause, it may be found in the impregnable line of white ribboners in the House.

Representative Parkinson of Volusia stood for division, and Representative Morrison, also of Volusia, opposed division. Parkinson had every advantage of Morrison, yet Morrison won; that is, Morrison's side won. In his talk against the measure, Morrison said it was a purpose to make the new county wet. Though Mr. Parkinson denied any such intention existed, the statement had been made, and probably contributed more than anything else to the defeat of the measure. This is a perfectly reasonable conclusion, when it is considered that every temperance measure yet presented to the House has been passed.

Representative Parkinson made a clear, clean and plausible presentation.

One of Mr. Morrison's points of argument was that it

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